(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c), Representations regarding acquisition of land including agricultural land for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been received. However, land being a State subject, acquisition of land comes under the purview of the State Governments. Each State acquires land for various purposes under the provisions of State Policies and the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 as amended from time to time. The decision to earmark land of various types for different purposes is taken by the respective State Governments in accordance with the policies laid down by them. However, the State Governments have been advised that in case of land required for SEZs, first priority should be for waste and barren land and if necessary, single crop land could be considered. If perforce a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZs. Further, in pursuance of the decisions of the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) on SEZs at its meeting held on 5th April, 2007, the State Governments have been informed on 15th June, 2007 that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April, 2007. A Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture has been constituted to consider revised Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy and amendments to the Land Acquisition Act.

Changes in policy regarding FDI in retail trade

2329. SHRI SHANTA RAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government as regards FDI in retail market;

(b) whether any changes have been made in the policy after the same was initially announced;

(c) the number of foreign companies engaged in retail trade in India;

(d) the number of outlets opened, city-wise;

(e) the total investments made;

(f) the total number of persons employed;

(g) the nature of resistance met locally by the management of outlets; and

(h) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not allowed in retail sector except in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products, where FDI up to 51% is allowed with prior Government approval subject to the following conditions:

(i) Products to be sold should be of a 'Single Brand' only.

(ii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally.

(iii) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government has so far gi-anted 17 approvals for FDI in retail of 'Single Brand' products.

(d) Information regarding number of outlets opened is not maintained centrally.

(e) The total investment approved for retailing of 'Single Brand' products is US $3.3 million.

(f) Details of employment by the 'Single Brand' products retails outlets are not maintained centrally.

(g) Government has not received any official information in this regard although some newspaper reports suggest opposition to certain retail outlets in some parts of the country. ,

(h) Does not arise.

JV with Israel for developing missiles

2330. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence Research and Development Organisation is entering into a new joint venture with Israel to develop a new range of surface to air missiles;

(b) if so, what is the total cost of the joint venture; and

(c) what would be the total revenue earned by Government from this and how would it be spent?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRl A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. However, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has undertaken a joint development project with Israel Afcrospace Industries (lAI), Israel for the development of a Surface to Air Missile using it from land and ship.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Protest to anchoring of USS Nimitz

2331. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
SHRl D. RAJA:
SHRl SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United State's nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz anchored four nautical miles off Chennai port on July 2, 2007;